REMARKS

This amendment to the claims is based on the New Patent Claims translated after the supplemental sheets (enclosed) from the original International Patent Application. After entry of this amendment, claims 2 and 4 are cancelled, claims 21 and 22 are added, and claims 1, 3, and 5-18 are amended. Claims 1, 3 and 5-18, 21 and 22 are pending in the application.

It is submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Consideration of the application as amended is requested. It is submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

This application is a continuation of patent application serial number 09/402,032, filed on September 24, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) [Molded] A molded body from a lightweight substance formed from a lightweight aggregate and a sintering auxiliary, [characterized by the fact that the lightweight substance is] comprising:

a sintered product obtained by mixing a lightweight substance of [60 to 95] 80 to 93 wt% of a lightweight aggregate[, chosen from] selected from the group consisting of perlites, expanded clay, expanded glass, vermiculites, [cenospheres] and kieselguhr [and/or] and their mixtures with [40 to 5] 20 to 7 wt% of an aqueous alkali silicate solution[, in which] where the lightweight aggregate is bonded in a network [fashion] structure exclusively at the contact sites to obtain its essential properties[.] , wherein the molded body has a dry bulk density and that the dry bulk density lies in the range from 150 to 750 kg/m^3.

3. (Amended) Molded body according to Claim 1 [or 2, characterized by the fact] further comprising that the molded body has a compressive strength and that the compressive strength lies in the range from 0.1 to 15 N/mm^2.

5. (Amended) Molded body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 4, characterized by the fact that] claim 1 wherein the [water-soluble] aqueous alkali silicate solution is [chosen from] alkali silicates[, especially water glass, especially sodium water glass and potassium water glass].

6. (Amended) Process for the production of a molded body according to claim 22 [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5, characterized by the fact that] further comprising the steps of:

subjecting the lightweight aggravate and the [binder] aqueous alkali silicate solution [are subjecting] to a shaping process after mixing and sintering at 400°C to 1000°C over a period from 0.1 h to 5 h.

7. (Amended) Process according to Claim 6, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the molded body has a compressive strength in the range from 0.1 to 15 N/mm^3 and at least one of the dry bulk density [and/or] and the compressive strength is adjusted as a function of the lightweight aggregate and the process parameters during sintering.

8. (Amended) Process according to Claim 6 [or 7 characterized by the fact that] further comprising the step of drying at 50°C to 95°C [is carried out] after shaping and before sintering.

9. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of the Claims 6 to 8, characterized by the fact that] claim 6 wherein the sintering process is conducted at 550 to 850 °C.

10. (Amended) Process according to [at least one of the Claims 6 to 9, characterized by the fact that] claim 6 wherein sintering occurs during a period from 0.1 h to 0.5 h.

11. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used as insulation [molded bodies].

12. (Amended) [Use of the] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used as construction material[, especially as bricks].

13. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used as furnace lining.

14. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used as [bricks] a brick for formation of exhaust installation.

15. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used for technical sound protection in interior rooms.

16. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used for a sound-absorbing [segments] segment for fixed passageways of rail vehicles.

17. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used as a fireproofing [elements] element.

18. (Amended) [Use of a] The molded [bodies] body according to [at least one of the Claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the molded body is used as a sound [absorbers] absorber in exhaust lines.

21. (New) Molded body according to claim 1, wherein the lightweight aggregate is cenospheres.

22. (New) A process for the production of a molded body from a lightweight substance formed from a lightweight aggregate and a sintering auxiliary, the process comprising the steps of:

obtaining a sintered product by mixing a lightweight substance of 80 to 93 wt% of a lightweight aggregate selected from the group consisting of perlites, expanded clay, expanded glass, vermiculites, and kieselguhr and their mixtures with 20

to 7 wt% of an aqueous alkali silicate solution where the lightweight aggregate is bonded in a network structure exclusively at the contact sites to obtain its essential properties wherein the molded body has a dry bulk density and that the dry bulk density lies in the range from 150 to 750 kg/m^3.